



# TOMPKINS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

121 East Court Street Ithaca, New York 14850  
Telephone (607) 274-5560 Fax (607) 274-5578



## **RESOLUTION NO. 3-2001 -RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CORNELL UNIVERSITY SELECT THE SITE REMEDIATION ALTERNATIVE OFFERING THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF PERMANENCE**

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a Proposed Remediation Action Plan (PRAP) identifying Alternative 2 (Containment of Source Area with Slurry Wall/Grout Curtain; Ground Water Recovery, Treatment and Discharge; and Natural Attenuation) as the preferred option for the site remediation of Cornell University's Radiation Disposal Site (RDS), and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council serves as an advisory group on issues of the environment to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives and the community, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council passed Resolution No. 3 in April 2000 urging Cornell University to select a long-term remedial alternative and ongoing monitoring plan which would ensure an end to the mobility of radioactive and carcinogenic waste from the RDS site by providing for the proper removal and storage of the contaminants within their county of origin, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Review Committee of the Environmental Management Council has reviewed the proposed alternative on behalf of the Council and remains concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed slurry wall and grout curtain in reducing the spread of radioactive material and carcinogenic compounds, the lack of rigorous testing and analysis at various locations at which the carcinogen, 1,4-Dioxane, has been detected, and the need for ongoing and independent monitoring of the site and affected areas, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council has determined that Alternative 6 (Excavation of Source Area and On-Site Disposal in a New Landfill; Ground Water Recovery, Treatment, and Discharge; and Natural Attenuation) appears to better address these concerns while remaining, according to the study, equally protective of human health and safety, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to select Alternative 6, which provides the most permanent solution possible without involving the transfer of contaminated waste outside of its county of origin.

Date: June 13, 2001

Voting In Favor: 12

Voting Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

